



Chapter 4: Consultation, Coordination, and Preparers

CHAPTER 4: CONSULTATION, COORDINATION, AND PREPARERS

PROJECT SCOPING HISTORY

Public scoping comments were used to assist the park in developing a range of reasonable and feasible project alternatives that meet the purpose and need. Issues that were identified through public scoping are incorporated into the analysis of the potential environmental impacts of each alternative in the environmental impact statement (EIS). Public scoping for the project was conducted from August 31, 2011, through February 3, 2012. The National Park Service (NPS) held public open houses on August 31, September 28, and December 7, 2011 and January 25, 2012, to inform interested parties about the proposed project and to solicit comments from members of the public in order to understand the spectrum of concerns, interests, and issues that should be considered in the planning process. The park also conducted a public site visit at the Grove on October 14, 2011. Approximately 20 interested individuals attended.

Public comments also were solicited by mail, fax, email, through the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) system, and on comment forms that were made available during public scoping meetings.

During the public scoping period, the park received 43 letters from 41 individuals and 2 organizations. Analysis of these letters identified 126 discrete substantive comments, from which 15 general concern statements were generated. All comments, substantive and non-substantive, received during the scoping period have been duly considered and are now part of the administrative record for this project. The public scoping letters and a report summarizing comments received can be viewed electronically on the PEPC database at <http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov/mariposagrove>.

On June 27, 2012 the park held its monthly open house in Yosemite Valley and shared results of the Choosing By Advantages (CBA) workshop with the public. Design drawings and scoring for each preliminary alternative were presented, and input received led to the reconsideration of some alternatives. Continuing public involvement activities include public meetings during the Draft EIS 60-day public comment period.

AGENCY CONSULTATION

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.) requires all federal agencies to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to ensure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by the agency does not jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or critical habitat. The NPS originally obtained a list of federally listed endangered and threatened species that may be present in the South Entrance area and Mariposa Grove from the USFWS on November 14, 2011 and compared this list to park records. The list was updated regularly and used as the basis for the special status species analysis in this EIS. On March 15, 2012, the park contacted the USFWS regarding the candidate species Pacific fisher and Sierra Nevada Red Frog regarding timing of possible listing under the Endangered Species Act. On May 3, 2012 the park entered into conferencing with the USFWS for this project to develop appropriate mitigation measures and discuss critical habitat, proactive habitat improvements, and possible reintroduction of the Pacific

fisher into northern Yosemite. Coordination with the USFWS will continue as environmental compliance for the Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias Project is finalized.

CALIFORNIA STATE OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The cultural resources investigations and reports for the project were conducted in accordance with the Section 106 process under 36 CFR Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties," the regulations that implement Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Site visits were conducted with the staff of the California State Office of Historic Preservation during scoping of the project.

A letter sent by the park on September 30, 2011 initiated consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office in Sacramento regarding the proposed undertaking at the Mariposa Grove and South Entrance. On April 11, 2012, the park sent a letter requesting concurrence for a determination of ineligibility for four archeological sites in the study area. On June 26, 2012 the park sent a letter requesting concurrence on the amendment to the Mariposa Grove consensus determination of eligibility. NPS will continue to communicate with the California State Historic Preservation Officer through design and construction of the project as needed.

AMERICAN INDIAN CONSULTATION

Yosemite National Park is consulting with the seven traditionally associated American Indian tribes and groups of Yosemite National Park: the American Indian Council of Mariposa County, Inc. (aka Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation), Bishop Paiute Tribe, Bridgeport Indian Colony, Mono Lake Kutzadikaa Tribe, North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California, Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians, and the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians. NPS initiated consultation with the seven associated tribes and groups in a letter dated October 19, 2011 (with a subsequent correction letter dated November 28, 2011). An informational meeting was held in Yosemite Valley on January 5, 2012. Members from all traditionally associated tribes and groups were invited. Members of the American Indian Council of Mariposa County, Inc. and the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians attended. This was followed by a site visit to the Mariposa Grove on January 11, 2012. All traditionally associated tribes and groups were invited, and representatives from the American Indian Council of Mariposa County and the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians attended. Another site visit to the Mariposa Grove took place on May 22, 2012. All traditionally associated tribes and groups were invited, and representatives from the American Indian Council of Mariposa County, the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians, and the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians were in attendance.

The traditionally associated American Indian tribes will receive copies of this EIS for review and comment. Consultation and partnering will continue with these American Indian tribes throughout the planning and implementation of the Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias Project.

FUTURE INFORMATION

Updated information about various aspects of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias Restoration Project will be periodically distributed via newsletters, mailings, the Yosemite National Park web site (<http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/mgrove>), and regional and local news media. Printed copies of the EIS will be distributed to selected public libraries.

There will be a 60-day public comment period on this Draft EIS.

Readers are encouraged to submit comments electronically through the PEPC system. A link to PEPC can be found on the project web site at <http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov/mariposagrove>.

Written comments regarding this document should be directed to:

Superintendent, Yosemite National Park
ATTN: Mariposa Grove DEIS
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, California 95389
Fax: 209-379-1294

To request a printed copy or CD of this environmental assessment (available in limited quantity), please email: Yose_Planning@nps.gov.

LIST OF PREPARERS AND REVIEWERS

Name	Responsibility	Education	Years of Experience
NPS			
Lisa Acree	Compliance Specialist	B.A. Environmental Studies	25 NPS
Barbara Bane	Archaeologist, Anthropology Branch	M.A. Anthropology	4 Public 4 Private
Sue Beatty	Deputy Project Manager, Restoration Ecologist	B.S. Recreation Graduate work in Natural Resources Management	25 NPS
Tony Brochini	Facilities Management	2 years of undergraduate studies	34 NPS
Monica Buhler	Restoration Ecologist	B.A. International Studies and Global Resources	14 NPS
Sue Clark	Former Compliance Specialist	M.S. Environmental Policy/Natural Resources Management B.S. Plant and Soil Science	31 NPS 6 Other
Jim Donovan	Planning Division Liaison	MURP/Planning B.A. Fine Arts	13 NPS 15 Other
Randy Fong	Chief, Project Management Division	M. Architecture B.A. Architecture	32 NPS 1 Other
Jennifer Hardin	Cultural Anthropologist and American Indian Liaison	Ph.D. Candidate M.A. Anthropology B.S. Anthropology	
Karen Hockett, Ph.D.	Social Scientist	Ph.D. Natural Resources Recreation M.S. Zoology B.S. Biology	1 NPS 8 Other
Kimball Koch	Project Manager – Mariposa Grove project/ Landscape Architect	M.L.A.	24 NPS
Bill Kuhn	Terrestrial Ecologist/Biogeographer	Ph.D. Ecology/Biogeography M.S. Ecology B.A. Biology	19 Federal

Name	Responsibility	Education	Years of Experience
Linda Mazzu	Chief, Division of Resources Management and Science	M.S. Natural Resources B.S. Parks and Recreation Management	20 NPS 10 Other
Jana Friesen McCabe	Visual Information Specialist	M.A. Luso-Brazilian Literature	13 NPS
Kevin McCardle	Historical Landscape Architect, Resource Advisor	M. Landscape Architecture B.S. Microbiology B.S. Science Education	3 Public 12 Private
Thomas R. Medema	Chief, Division of Interpretation and Education	M.S. Parks and Recreation Management B.S. Outdoor Recreation and Management	18 NPS
Bret Meldrum	Branch Chief, Visitor Use and Social Sciences	Ph.D. (ongoing) Natural Resource Studies M.S. Conservation Social Sciences B.S. Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Services	5 Public
Don L. Neubacher	Superintendent	M.S. Natural Resources Management B.S. Planning and Management	29 NPS
Marty Nielson	Assistant to the Superintendent	B.S. Outdoor Recreation	21 NPS 8 Other
Charles Repath	Restoration Ecologist	M.S. Restoration Ecology B.S. History	3 NPS 15 Other
Ann Roberts	NEPA Compliance Specialist and DEIS Project Manager	M.S. Forestry/Ecological Restoration B.S. Wildlife Management	17 Public
Jim Roche	Hydrologist	M.S. Geology B.S. Chemistry	15 Public
Madelyn Ruffner	Acting Branch Chief, Environmental Planning and Compliance	M.P.P. Public Policy B.A. Environmental Studies	4 Private 8 Public
Daniel Schaible	Historical Landscape Architect	B.A. Landscape Architecture	6 NPS
Eric Scott	Wawona District Ranger	B.S. Resource Recreation Management	26 NPS
Dean Shenk	Supervisory Park Ranger		35 Public
Woodie Smeck	Deputy Superintendent	Masters in Landscape Architecture	23 NPS 6 Other
Gus Smith	Fire Ecologist	Ph.D. Natural Resources	4 NPS 20 academia
Sarah Stock	Wildlife Biologist	M.S. Zoology B.S. Conservation Biology	6 NPS 10 Other
Steve Thompson	Branch Chief, Wildlife Management, Resources Management and Science Division	M.S. Ecology-Wildlife B.S. Biology	21 NPS 5 Other

Name	Responsibility	Education	Years of Experience
Jennifer Treutelaar	Program Manager, Hetch Hetchy and Yosemite Conservancy Liaison, Office of the Superintendent	M.E.M. Resource Economics and Policy B.A. Biology	9 NPS 1 Other
Kim Tucker	Concessions Management Specialist, Division of Business and Revenue Management	2 years of undergraduate studies	36 Public
Mithun			
Brendan Connolly	Project Director, Architect	M. Architecture B.A. Architecture	15 Private
Susan Olmsted	Project Manager / Lead Designer, Architect, Landscape Architect	M. Architecture B. Landscape Architecture	2 Public 11 Private
Christian Runge	Landscape Designer	M. Landscape Architecture B.S. Biology	2 Private
Independent Consultant			
Robert A. York	Giant Sequoia Researcher	Ph.D. and M.S. Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management B.S. Forestry	2 Private 9 Public
Sherwood Design Engineers			
S. Bry Sarte	Principal Civil Engineer	B.S. Civil and Environmental Engineering B.A. Fine Arts	16 Private
Shauna Dunton	Civil Engineer	B.S. Civil and Environmental Engineering	12 Private
Nelson Nygaard			
Michael Eiseman	Transportation Planner	B.A.	8 years private
Bonnie Nelson	Transportation Planner	B.S. Civil Engineering	30 years private
Cathleen Sullivan	Transportation Planner	Master of City and Regional Planning	8 years private
URS Corporation			
Keith Pohs	DEIS Project Manager, Writer-Editor, Photography, Soils, Energy Use and Sustainability	M.S. Earth Science B.A. Geology	8 Private 6 Public
Jennifer Pyne	Project Manager, Visitor Use and Experience	M.E.P. Environmental Planning B.A. Politics	12 Private 2 Public
Kinzie Gordon	Principal-in-Charge, Independent Technical Review	B.A. Anthropology	38 Private
Janis Offermann	Archaeology, Traditional Cultural Resources	M.A. Anthropology B.A. Anthropology	2 Private 35 Public
Jeremy Hollins	Historic structures	M.A. Public History B.A. History	9 Private

Name	Responsibility	Education	Years of Experience
Melanie Lytle	Historic structures	M.A. Historic Preservation B.A. History	6 Private
Bonnie DeBerry	Hydrology and Water Quality	M.F.S. Aquatic Chemistry B.S. Natural Resources	13 Private 4 Public
Tim Rimpo	Air Quality	M.S. Economics B.A. Economics	28 Private
Ron Reeves	Soundscapes	B.S. Information Systems	21 Private
Jean Charpentier	Vegetation, Wetlands, Special Status Species, and Wildlife	M.S. Wildlife Ecology	13 Private
Philip Mineart	Hydrology and Water Quality	M.S. Civil Engineering B.S. Environmental Resources Engineering	28 Private
David Konopka	Visitor Use and Experience	Graduate Studies in Landscape Architecture & Outdoor Recreation Planning B.S. Natural Resource Conservation	2 Private 12 Public
Allison Getty	Park Operations	M.A. Natural Resources/ Environmental Management B.S. Natural Resources/ Environmental Management	5 Private
Ryan McMullan	Soundscapes	B.A. Political Science B.A. Audio Arts and Acoustics	4 Private
John Qoyawayma	Graphics	Business Computing Systems	28 Private
Kathy Hinkel	Project Administrator	Business Certificate	8 Private
Meg Quarrie	Senior Word Processor	B.A. English	30 Private
Climate Wise Solutions, LLC (subcontractor to URS)			
Dr. George Koch	Technical Expert, Vegetation, Wetlands, Special Status Species, and Wildlife	Ph.D. Biology B.S. Biology	30 Academia, Research, and Consulting
Independent Consultant (subcontractor to URS)			
Dr. Steve Lawson	Technical Expert, Visitor Use and Experience	Ph.D. Natural Resources M.S. Resource Economics and Policy B.A. Political Science	10 Academia 4 Consulting

LIST OF AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND BUSINESSES RECEIVING THE RESTORATION OF THE MARIPOSA GROVE OF GIANT SEQUOIAS DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The following pages list the agencies, organizations, and businesses who received a CD of the *Draft EIS*.

U.S. Government

Legislature

Members of Congress

Federal Agencies

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

Sierra National Forest

U.S. Department of Defense

Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Board

U. S. Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Regional Office

National Park Service

Pacific West Regional Office

U.S. Department of Justice

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, San Francisco Regional Office

American Indian Tribes and Groups

American Indian Council, Mariposa County

Bishop Paiute Indian Council

Bridgeport Paiute Indian Colony

Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians

Mono Lake Kutzadika'a Paiute Indian Community

North Fork Mono Indian Museum

North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California

Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians

Tuolumne Mewuk Rancheria

Western Mono Tribal Government

California State Government

State Agencies and Organizations

California Department of Fish and Game
Region #4

California Department of Transportation

California Office of Historic Preservation

California Regional Water Quality Control
Board #5F (Central Valley)

County and Local Governments

Fish Camp

Advisory Council

Property Owners Association

Madera County

Board of Supervisors

Planning Department

Mariposa County

Board of Supervisors

Planning Department

El Portal Town Planning Advisory

Committee

Wawona Town Planning Advisory

Committee

Merced County

Board of Supervisors

Planning Department

Visitor Bureaus

Bass Lake Chamber of Commerce, Bass Lake

Coarsegold Chamber of Commerce,

Coarsegold

Mariposa County Visitors Center (Chamber of Commerce), Mariposa

Merced Visitor Services / California

Welcome Center, Merced

North Fork Chamber of Commerce, North Fork

Oakhurst Area Chamber of Commerce, Oakhurst

Yosemite Chamber of Commerce, Groveland

Yosemite / Mariposa County Tourism Bureau, Mariposa

Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau, Oakhurst

Organizations and Businesses

Backcountry Horsemen of California
California Native Plant Society, Sequoia
Chapter
Central Sierra Environmental Resource
Center
Delaware North Corporation
Foothill Conservancy
Friends of Yosemite
High Sierra Hikers Association
Mariposans for the Environment and
Responsible Government
National Audubon Society
National Parks and Conservation
Association
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Native Habitats
Natural Resources Defense Council
NatureBridge Yosemite
Sierra Club
The Redwoods in Yosemite
Yosemite Conservancy
Yosemite Restoration Trust

Libraries

Mariposa County Library, El Portal
Mariposa County Library, Wawona
Mariposa County Library, Mariposa
Oakhurst Library

Public Media

Newspapers

Associated Press
Fresno Bee
Mariposa Gazette
Merced Sun-Star
Modesto Bee
Mountain Democrat
Oakland Tribune
Sacramento Bee
San Francisco Chronicle
San Francisco Examiner